

# DELAWARE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BOARD

The Townsend Building  
401 Federal Street, Suite 2  
Dover, Delaware 19901

## Meeting Minutes

The Department of Education  
The Cabinet Room

November 3, 2011  
5:15 P.M.

**Members Present:** Michael Casson, Joanne Christian, Samtra Devard, Stephanie DeWitt, Marilyn Dollard, Cristy Greaves, Chris Kenton, David Kohan, Jill Lewandowski, Wendy Murray, Whitney Price, Shelley Rouser, and Kathleen Thomas.

**Members Absent:** Karen Gordon, Lori Hudson and Jacqueline Wisnauskas.

**Others Present:** Charlie Michels; PSB Executive Director, Paula Fontello; Deputy Attorney General, Eric Niebrzydowski; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Special Projects, Donna Mitchell; RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Professional Development, Michelle Kriss; Secretary to PSB, Donna Johnson; State Board Executive Director, Deb Stevens; DSEA and Frank Livoy; University of Delaware ARTC Program.

### I. Opening

**Call to Order:** Ms. Thomas, Professional Standards Board Chair, called the meeting to Order at 5:25 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Ms. Lewandowski and seconded by Ms. DeWitt to approve the November 3, 2011 Agenda. The motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes of October 6, 2011:** A motion was made by Mr. Kenton and seconded by Ms. Murray to approve the PSB Minutes of October 6, 2011. The motion carried.

### II. Public Comment

None.

### III. Executive Director's Report

- Mr. Michels attended the Department of Education's Office of Teacher and Administrator Quality Development Quarterly Meeting on October 12, 2011 where he gave the broad-based group updates as to the current directions the PSB is moving relative to licensure and certification regulations. He also reminded the group about recently approved Praxis II tests required for certification.

- Mr. Michels met with the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) Policy and Law Committee on October 18, 2011 to discuss HB107. HB107 is the Bill the PSB attempted to move forward last spring in the General Assembly that would require all educators to pass Praxis I prior to licensure, and to allow some specialists' prior experiences to be used in lieu of student teaching.
- Mr. Michels and Ms. Thomas attended the 2012 Delaware Teacher of the Year celebration event at Dover Downs on the evening of October 18, 2011. Mr. Michels mailed a congratulatory certificate to the awardee, Ms. Amber Augustus of Smyrna School District, along with a letter inviting her to speak at an upcoming PSB meeting. Ms. Augustus will also receive \$250.00 honorarium which is in the process of being expedited.
- Mr. Michels attended the monthly meeting of district Personnel Directors at Polytech High School on October 20, 2011. He always provides the group with the latest initiatives, publications of regulations, newly amended regulations and Praxis updates.
- Mr. Michels met with Dr. Marion Wolak, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development and with Dr. Gregory Fulkerson, Education Associate, World Languages and International Education via phone, on October 20, 2011 to discuss American Sign Language certification programs. The World Language Teacher regulation was recently approved by the PSB and Mr. Michels indicated that for those areas tested by neither a Praxis II test nor an ACTFL test, the regulation allows either 15 hours or equivalent professional development (inclusive of pedagogy) in the world language area, or a certification program as approved by the PSB and the State Board of Education. Mr. Michels' intent was to research valuable programs specifically for American Sign Language, and to go through the approval process so as to be ready for teachers requesting the use of these for certification. The conversation with Drs. Wolak and Fulkerson highlighted some existing programs. Mr. Michels will continue to do his research and encouraged the PSB to look at proposed programs and eventually move forward with appropriate approvals.
- Mr. Michels attended the State Board of Education 5 p.m. meeting on October 20, 2011. The two PSB Action items moved forward at that time: Mentor and Lead Mentor stipends and approval of the current list of valid clusters.
- Mr. Michels went to Alexandria, Virginia on October 25 and 26 for a regional Educational Testing Services (ETS) Client Meeting. Updates on multi-state standards setting studies, the newest computer-based Praxis II test releases and the new registration site on the ETS website were shared. ETS will be forming a Praxis I National Advisory Committee in January 2012. Mr. Michels would like to send a contingent from Delaware and if any PSB member was interested, they were to let Mr. Michels know. From registered individuals, ETS would select a diverse group of people to populate the Committee.
- Mr. Michels said ETS is changing the Praxis registration process, as effective November 7, individuals can register directly on the ETS website. This new process should prevent individuals intent on Delaware certification from registering for tests that are not approved for Delaware certification.

- Mr. Michels referred the PSB to a handout in their folders pertaining to Praxis II test Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5031) and asked the PSB to review the “Test at a Glance”. This test could replace the currently approved 5014 test. Test 5031 has individual components for the four elementary core content areas, for which each would have a separate approved cut score. Several other states are moving to this test to insure elementary teachers are ‘Just Qualified’ in each of the four core areas. Mr. Michels would like to discuss this further at an upcoming PSB meeting. Mr. Michels indicated he has yet to discuss this with Higher Education, but will do so.
- Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the latest NAEP Reading and Math results handout in their folder.

#### IV. **DOE Report**

Mr. Michels introduced Mr. Eric Niebrzydowski, RTTT Deputy Officer TLEU Special Projects. Mr. Niebrzydowski gave an overview of his work with School Leaders. He handed out a document that showed the four current projects he is responsible for. These four initiatives include Development Coaches, School Leadership Coaches, Vision Network and School Administration Managers (SAMs). He gave a brief description of each initiative and responded to Board member’s questions.

#### V. **Action Items**

None.

#### VI. **Discussion**

##### **A. 1573 Teacher of Students with Autism or Severe Disabilities**

Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the handouts in their folder and iterated that this regulation is one in which a variety of advocate groups exist within the State. After working with Department of Education staff as well as the Delaware Autism Program Director, Mr. Michels thought it would be beneficial to send out the draft of regulation 1573 to these groups for some feedback prior to publication. He also sent the draft to Ms. Mary Ann Mieczkowski, the DOE Director of Exceptional Children Resources, who forwarded the draft to all appropriate educators within Delaware districts and charter schools. Mr. Michels received feedback from the Governor’s Advisory Counsel for Exceptional Children (GACEC) and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) and both had the same response. Their main expressed concern was the newly added definition of ‘Severe Developmental Disabilities’. There have been no additional responses to date. After some discussion with the Board, Mr. Michels resolved to continue his contact work and to research the possibility of adding an IEP competence element to the certification requirements.

##### **B. 1598 Delaware Professional Development Standards**

Mr. Michels said it was the PSB’s responsibility to approve Professional Develop (PD) Standards based on a RTTT pledge that the Department had. In June of 2011, the PSB and the State Board of Education adopted the National Staff Development Council’s (NSDC) 2001 Staff Development Standards, knowing that NSDC had morphed their name and mission into Learning Forward. At the time, Learning Forward was close to

adopting new Standards. The PSB decided to wait and see what Learning Forward eventually adopted and then determine whether or not to amend the previously approved regulation to incorporate the new Standards. Mr. Michels referred the PSB members to a few handouts in their folders including a draft of regulation 1598 as well as Learning Forward's 2011 Standards for Professional Learning (PL). Mr. Michels had sent out a query to about 15 individuals across the State that included School Chiefs, Teachers and Higher Education asking them to share their thoughts on these newer PD/PL Standards. He received one response back Dr. Wilson at University of Delaware who indicated her program is using the new standards. Mr. Michels is going to continue to work on this and report back to the PSB in December with the potential of placing these as an Action item on the 12/1/2011 Agenda.

**C. 1597 Delaware Professional Teaching Standards**

Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the handouts in their folders: regulation 1597, 1597 Amended Draft-InTASC extended version, and the InTASC Model Core Teaching Standards At A Glance. Mr. Michels said this regulation was reviewed several years ago when he had compared and contrasted it with the latest Charlotte Danielson's work. The Board determined then that the standing Regulation was still valid, and subsequently re-adopted it. Mr. Michels said a number of states are not adopting the new CCSSO Standards and a couple states were questioning whether they wanted to adopt the National Standards. Mr. Michels shared a crosswalk he completed between the new Standards and DPAS II revised components. Mr. Michels asked the PSB to look critically at the new InTASC Standards and be prepared to discuss them at the December 1, 2011 PSB meeting.

**D. 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher**

Mr. Michels referred the PSB to the handouts in their folder pertaining to Regulation 1570 and the ETS Multi-state Standard Setting Study Technical Report for Praxis II Special Education: Early Childhood (0691). He indicated that Education Testing Service (ETS) asked him about six months ago if Delaware would be interested in participating in a Multi-state Standard Setting Study (MSSS) for the Early Childhood: Special Education Praxis II test. Currently regulation 1570 does not have an approved Praxis test. The regulation currently has a course count, but does require achieving a passing score on a Praxis II test if so approved by the Standards Board in consultation with the Department and with concurrence of the State Board. Mr. Michels queried a number of Delaware educators: both practicing teachers and representatives from Higher Education, to see if there was any interest in attending the MSSS. Those interested applied online with ETS, and then ETS selected individuals they would invite to participate. Three Delaware teachers from three different Delaware school districts and one representative from Wilmington University participated in the late September Study. Mr. Michels received the concluding Report in mid-October and then asked the MSSS participants if they felt this would be an appropriate test for Early Childhood: Special Education certification. He also asked if they felt the test should take the place of the course count or should be in addition. The unanimous response was that the test was appropriate, but that the course count should stand. Mr. Michels said this regulation needs some formatting work at a minimum and that he will gather more feedback and asked the PSB to do the same.

**E. HB 107**

Mr. Michels said the PSB proposed the content framing House Bill 107 after looking at DE Code, the current Initial Licensure regulation, what DE Teacher Preparation Programs are requiring and what other states are requiring. Mr. Michels indicated this bill was introduced in the House Education Committee last spring where it was subsequently released. At that point, the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) raised concerns which appeared to put a full House affirmative vote in jeopardy. At that point, Representative Schooley, the bill's sponsor thought it would be best to facilitate further conversation with the GACEC. Mr. Michels shared with the Board his conversation with the GACEC's Policy and Law Committee on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Four School Nurses were present at the meeting and voiced their repeated concern regarding School Nurse applicants being required in the proposed bill to have taken and passed the Praxis I test prior to licensure. Mr. Michels asked the PSB for direction and input regarding the how he should proceed. The PSB asked Mr. Michels to hold true to the original premises in HB107 and to work with due diligence in January with the General Assembly.

**VII. Presentation**

None.

**VIII. PSB Standing Committees**

**A. Licensure and Certification Criteria**

The Committee had not met.

**B. Professional Development and Associated Compensation**

The Committee had not met.

**IX. Other**

None.

**X. Public Comment**

There was one public comment made by Ms. Samtra Devard.

**XI. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Ms. DeWitt and seconded by Ms. Lewandowski to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.